

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 1, 2012  
AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 16, 2012  
AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 29, 2012

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 1301**

---

**Introduced by Senator Hernandez**  
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Mitchell)  
(Coauthor: Senator Emmerson)

February 23, 2012

---

An act to add Section 4064.5 to the Business and Professions Code, relating to pharmacy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1301, as amended, Hernandez. Prescription drugs: 90-day supply.

Existing law, the Pharmacy Law, provides for the licensure and regulation of the practice of pharmacy by the California State Board of Pharmacy. Existing law prohibits a person from furnishing a dangerous drug except upon the prescription of specified practitioners, except as specified. Existing law authorizes a pharmacist filling a prescription order for a drug product to substitute a generic drug product or a drug product with a different form of medication having the same active chemical ingredients of equivalent strength and duration of therapy as the prescribed drug product, subject to specified requirements. Existing law also authorizes a pharmacist to refill a prescription for a dangerous drug without the prescriber's authorization under specified circumstances.

This bill would authorize a pharmacist, if the patient has completed an initial 30-day supply of a dangerous drug, to dispense not more than a 90-day supply of that dangerous drug other than a controlled substance

pursuant to a valid prescription if the pharmacist is exercising his or her professional judgment, he or she dispenses no more than the total amount prescribed, including refills, and the prescriber has not specified on the prescription that dispensing the prescription in an initial amount followed by periodic refills is medically necessary. *The bill would prohibit a pharmacist from dispensing a dangerous drug pursuant to these provisions if the prescriber personally indicates “Dispense as written” or words of similar meaning.* The bill would require a pharmacist dispensing a dangerous drug pursuant to these provisions to notify the prescriber of the change in the quantity of dosage units dispensed. The bill would provide that these provisions are not applicable to psychotropic medication or psychotropic drugs, as described.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 4064.5 is added to the Business and
- 2 Professions Code, to read:
- 3 4064.5. (a) A pharmacist may dispense not more than a 90-day
- 4 supply of a dangerous drug other than a controlled substance
- 5 pursuant to a valid prescription that specifies the initial dispensing
- 6 of a lesser amount followed by periodic refills of that amount if
- 7 the patient has completed an initial 30-day supply of the dangerous
- 8 drug and all of the following requirements are satisfied:
- 9 (1) The total quantity of dosage units dispensed does not exceed
- 10 the total quantity of dosage units authorized by the prescriber on
- 11 the prescription, including refills.
- 12 (2) The prescriber has not specified on the prescription that
- 13 dispensing the prescription in an initial amount followed by
- 14 periodic refills is medically necessary.
- 15 (3) The pharmacist is exercising his or her professional
- 16 judgment.
- 17 (b) A pharmacist dispensing a dangerous drug pursuant to this
- 18 section shall notify the prescriber of the change in the quantity of
- 19 dosage units dispensed.
- 20 (c) *In no case shall a pharmacist dispense a greater supply of*
- 21 *a dangerous drug pursuant to this section if the prescriber*

1 *personally indicates, either orally or in his or her own handwriting,*  
2 *“Dispense as written,” or words of similar meaning.*

3 ~~(e)~~

4 *(d)* This section shall not apply to psychotropic medication or  
5 psychotropic drugs as described in subdivision (d) of Section 369.5  
6 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

7 ~~(d)~~

8 *(e)* Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a health  
9 care service plan, health insurer, workers’ compensation insurance  
10 plan, pharmacy benefits manager, or any other person or entity,  
11 including, but not limited to, a state program or state employer, to  
12 provide coverage for a dangerous drug in a manner inconsistent  
13 with a beneficiary’s plan benefit.